

## NOT VOTING—4

Carper Nelson  
Graham Rubio

The amendment (No. 2169) was agreed to.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2137

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Portman amendment No. 2137.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, amendment No. 2137 is about early college high school. This is a program that is working incredibly well around the country, both to get young people through high school and to increase graduation rates, which is part of the objective of this legislation, and also to get them not just into college but to stay in college. All of the experience from this program indicates it is working.

I had a recent opportunity to visit the Dayton Early College High School, the academy, and 100 percent of their graduates are from a low-income area. Almost every single one of the students were either the first generation to go to college or into the military. Their retention rate in college is incredibly impressive. This amendment encourages more of that.

Early college high schools are working. It is part of the reform effort that is being undertaken in my State and others, and I strongly encourage a "yes" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I am honored to join with the Senator from Ohio in cosponsoring this amendment. I, too, have recently visited an early college high school in my home State, which Delaware State College, our historically Black college, has established. It has shown real promise in terms of the possibilities for college access, college affordability, and college completion.

I urge an "aye" vote from my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2137.

The amendment (No. 2137) was agreed to.

## VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2159

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on Bennet amendment No. 2159.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I yield back our time.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2159.

The amendment (No. 2159) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, that concludes the votes for now. We are moving along very well. We expect

to have votes at 4 p.m. today on amendments by Senators ISAKSON, BENNET, LEE, and FRANKEN. We may have other votes.

Senator MURRAY and I have a number of amendments that Senators have suggested to us. We would like to move through them today and tomorrow.

## RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:05 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

## EVERY CHILD ACHIEVES ACT OF 2015—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am here today to stand up for Maryland and for all the students who could lose resources under an amendment offered by the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BURR.

There is much I admire about Senator BURR, but his current amendment would cause Maryland tremendous problems. The Burr amendment would punish States that make significant investments in those students who need extra help. This amendment would not do one thing to lift kids out of poverty or to close the achievement gap. In fact, it makes it worse.

The so-called hold-harmless provision that is in the amendment does not hold Maryland harmless. It does not prevent any of the Maryland school districts from losing money. Under the Burr amendment, Maryland would lose \$40 million. Let me repeat. Under the Burr amendment, Maryland would lose \$40 million.

Marylanders know that I have always been on the side of students, teachers, those who run programs, and the taxpayers who pay for them. We in America believe in public education, where one generation is willing to pay taxes to fund the education of the next generation.

Title I in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was created to lift children up and to close the education gap.

Let me tell you what the Burr amendment would do. Right now, every county and Baltimore City would lose money. There are 24 school districts in Maryland, with 400,000 public school students. Mr. President, 170,000 students—or 45 percent of that population—are eligible for something called title I funding. If the Burr amendment passes, every single one of those boys and girls would lose academic resources they currently get. Let me give you the numbers: Baltimore City, 12 percent; Baltimore County, 23 percent; Garrett County in western Maryland, 20 percent; Somerset County on the Eastern Shore, 15 percent.

From my students in urban schools in the Baltimore/Washington corridor to my rural schools in western Maryland and the Eastern Shore, every single one loses resources, and if you lose resources, you lose opportunity. If we believe in an opportunity ladder, then do not cut off the rungs. It is not the schools that lose, it is the kids who lose. They lose resources and they lose opportunities.

I have heard from school superintendents across Maryland. They tell me the same thing over and over: Do not cut the money for title I.

Dr. Henry Wagner, the superintendent in Dorchester County over on the Eastern Shore, says that the rural schools on the Eastern Shore would be impacted and that he would have to eliminate teaching positions, reduce reading and math services. And the very services to bring in parents would go by the wayside.

Over in Washington County, the gateway to the Eastern Shore, Dr. Clayton Wilcox, the superintendent of Washington County schools, describes how a rural school would be harmed. In his letter in which he describes title I, he said: Senator MIKULSKI, title I resources "have allowed us to create hope." He said: "They have enabled us to provide extra instructional support in literacy and math—subjects that open up windows and doors often shut to [these boys and girls]." Without title I dollars, Washington County would have to cut this instructional support in literacy and math. He writes: "Senator BURR's amendment is bad for the children and young people of Maryland." It is bad for all of the children in Maryland.

Baltimore City, where we certainly have had our share of problems lately, would be deeply cut. Right now, Baltimore City receives \$50 million. It will lose 10 percent of that funding. Mr. President, \$5 million in Baltimore right now sure means a lot. If we cut that money, we are going to shrink pre-K access. The afterschool and summer learning programs will go by the wayside. If they go by the wayside, you will not only have kids with time on their hands, but they will fall behind in reading, in the very things they had gained over the school year. And the professional development for teachers, especially those new teachers we were bringing in, will be eliminated.

I am so proud that Maryland allocates more of its title I dollars to schools that need it the most. For example, 85 percent of students in Baltimore—those kids live in poverty. It has the lowest wealth per pupil in Maryland. So the State allocates more of its resources in this area.

Maryland actually gets penalized under the Burr amendment for putting money where it will do the most good, and, in fact, Maryland gets penalized for making education a priority. Well, I thought we believed in State determination. If a State determines it is going to make a significant investment